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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /081 W ----- 041845

R 280844Z JUL 76 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8567 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 5829

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS US CE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

SUBJ: ROK AND NORTH KOREAN ATTENDANCE AT NAM

- 1. MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TREATIES BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG WOO-YOUNG TOLD POLCOUNS JULY 27 THAT ROKS HAD RECENTLY ASKED SRI LANKANS TO BE ALLOWED TO SEND NINE OFFICIALS TO COLOMBO AT TIME OF NON-ALIGNED MEETING. SRI LANKANS SAID THAT WAS TOO MANY AND AFTER SOME NEGOTIATING ROKS AGREED TO SENDING TWO ROKG OFFICIALS PLUS THREE PRESS MEN. TOGETHER WITH FIVE TRADE MISSION PEOPLE ALREADY IN COLOMBO, ROKS WILL HAVE TOTAL OF TEN IN COLOMBO AT TIME OF NAM. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHO WILL GO, BUT LEADER WILL PROBABLY BE YI CHON-PIN, MIDDLE LEVEL MOFA UN DIVISION CHIEF. (COMMENT: YI IS COMPETENT, AND KNOWS HIS SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH HE CAN BE A BIT DOUR).
- 2. SRI LANKANS HAVE APPARENTLY TOLD ROKS THAT THEY EXPECT SHIPLOAD OF NORTH KOREANS FOR NAM. DPRK HAS INDICATED IT WILL SEND EITHER OF TWO SHIPS, ONE OF WHICH CAN ACCOMODATE 100 PASSENGERS, THE OTHER 300. CHUNG SAID HALF FACETIOUSLY THAT HE HOPED THE NORTH SEND THE LARGER OF THE TWO, SINCE 300 NORTH KOREANS LIABLE TO DO MORE DAMAGE TO THEIR OWN CAUSE THAN 100. STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUI 05829

Document Number: 1976SEOUL05829 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760291-0609

From: SEOUL

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760713/aaaaaldf.tel Line Count: 52

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 1

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: izenbei0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19 MAY 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>

Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ROK AND NORTH KOREAN ATTENDANCE AT NAM

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US, CE, UNGA To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006